

options before deciding in early 1995 to defer the regulation in order to better characterize health effects.

On August 6, 1996, Congress amended the SDWA, adding section 1412(b)(12)(A) which requires, in part, that EPA propose a NPDWR for arsenic by January 1, 2000 and issue a final regulation by January 1, 2001. The current maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 50 ug/L remains in effect until the effective date of the revised rule.

The 1996 amendments to the SDWA also directed EPA to develop by February, 1997, a comprehensive arsenic research plan to assess health risks associated with exposure to low levels of arsenic. In December 1996, EPA announced the availability of the arsenic research plan, and the public had an opportunity to comment on the paper at a scientific peer review meeting in January, 1997. EPA reported to Congress in late January that the plan was publicly available and would be revised after consideration of the final report of the scientific peer review group, which was subsequently published May 8, 1997. In conducting the studies in the arsenic research plan, EPA will consult with the National Academy of Sciences, other Federal agencies, and other interested public and private parties.

B. Request for Stakeholder Involvement

EPA intends for the proposed NPDWR for arsenic to incorporate the best available science, risk assessment, treatment technologies, occurrence data, cost/benefit analyses, and stakeholder input on technical and implementation issues.

The stakeholders meeting will cover a broad range of issues including: (1) Regulatory process; (2) arsenic risk assessment (exposure, health assessment, national occurrence); (3) key technical assessments (treatment technologies, treatment residuals, cost, analytical methods); (4) small system concerns; and (5) future stakeholder involvement. Background materials on arsenic in drinking water issues will be sent to all registered participants in advance of the meeting.

EPA has announced this public meeting to hear the views of stakeholders on EPA's plans for activities to develop a NPDWR for arsenic. The public is invited to provide comments on the issues listed above and other issues related to the arsenic in drinking water regulation during the September 11 and 12, 1997 meeting or in writing by October 10, 1997.

Dated: July 30, 1997.

Elizabeth Fellows,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Environmental Protection Agency.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5868-8]

National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology—Total Maximum Daily Load Committee: Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, PL 92-463, EPA gives notice of a three day meeting of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology's (NACEPT) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee. NACEPT provides advice and recommendations to the Administrator of EPA on a broad range of environmental policy issues. The TMDL Committee has been charged to provide recommendations for actions which will lead to a substantially more effective TMDL program. This meeting is being held to enable the Committee and EPA to hear the views and obtain the advice of a widely diverse group of stakeholders in the National Water Program.

In conjunction with the three day meeting, the FACA Committee members and the EPA will host two meetings designed to afford the general public greater opportunity to express its views on TMDL and water related issues.

DATES: The three day public meeting will be held on September 3-5, 1997, in Portland, Oregon, at the Fifth Avenue Suites, 506 S.W. Washington at Fifth Avenue. The full Committee meeting begins on Wednesday, September 3, 1997, at 7:30 a.m. with adjournment scheduled for 5:30 p.m.. The meeting on Thursday, September 4, 1997, will reconvene at 7:30 a.m. and is scheduled to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. On Friday, September 5, 1997, the Committee begins deliberations at 7:30 a.m. and is scheduled to conclude at 4:00 p.m.

The two public input sessions are scheduled in conjunction with the full Committee meeting in the same location. The first will occur on September 3, 1997, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. The second will occur on September 4, 1997, from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING DATES: The Committee has scheduled one more meeting: January 21-23, 1998 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

ADDRESSES: Materials or written comments may be transmitted to the Committee through Corinne S. Wellish, Designated Federal Officer, NACEPT/TMDL, U.S. EPA, Office of Water, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (4503F), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Corinne S. Wellish, Designated Federal Officer for the Total Maximum Daily Load Committee at 202-260-0740.

Dated: July 28, 1997.

Corinne S. Wellish,

Designated Federal Officer

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5869-1]

Announcement of Stakeholders Meeting on National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Radon-222

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of stakeholders meeting.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be holding a one-day public meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 1997, in San Francisco, CA. The purpose of this meeting is to present information on EPA's plans for activities to develop a proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for radon-222, and solicit public input on major technical and implementation issues, and on preferred approaches for continued public involvement. This upcoming meeting is the second of a series of stakeholders meetings on the NPDWR for radon. These meetings were initiated as part of the Drinking Water Program Redirection efforts to help refocus EPA's drinking water priorities and to support strong, flexible partnerships among EPA, States, local governments, and the public. At the upcoming meeting, EPA is seeking input from state drinking water and radon programs, the regulated community (public water systems), public health and safety organizations, environmental and public interest groups, and other stakeholders on a number of issues related to developing the NPDWR for radon. EPA encourages the full participation of stakeholders throughout this process.